

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /089 W

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R 271058Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6033

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13344

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, CH

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO  
ACCOMPANIED THAI BADMINTON TEAM TO PRC

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED AUGUST 24 THE AUGUST  
7-21 VISIT OF THE THAI BADMINTON TEAM TO THE PRC WITH ONE  
OF THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED  
THE TEAM TO CHINA. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, THE THAI  
OFFICIAL DID STATE THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD  
WITH RANKING CHINESE OFFICIALS AND THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS  
HAD GONE WELL. THE OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS  
TOWARD IMPROVED SINO-THAI RELATIONS WERE PROGRESSING MUCH  
MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE THAI EXPECTED.

2. THE THAI OFFICIAL DID NOT PROVIDE AN OPENING FOR  
QUESTIONS ABOUT CHINESE SUPPORT TO THE THAI INSURGENCY OR  
CONTACTS WITH SIHANOUK AND HIS GRUNK APPARATUS. WE EXPECT  
TO DISCUSS THE PRC VISIT WITH ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMBER  
OF THE BADMINTON DELEGATION NEXT WEEK, AND WILL REPORT FURTHER  
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AT THAT TIME.

3. THE AUGUST 25 ISSUE OF THE NATION PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON "SECRET SINO-THAI TRADE TALKS BEING HELD IN HONG KONG. THE ARTICLE---SOURCED TO "LEAKED" INFORMATION FROM THE THAI BUSINESSMEN'S DELEGATION REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHIEF OF THE CHINA TRADE OFFICER IN HONG KONG---STATED THAT THESE TALKS WOULD LAST ABOUT TWO DAYS. THE ARTICLE ALSO STATED THAT THE MAIN POINTS TO BE DECIDED WERE TERMS OF PAYMENT AND SHPPING ARRAANGEMENTS. WHILE IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMBERS OF THE BADMINTON TEAM MAY HAVE DISCUSSED TRADE MATTERS DURING THEIR TALKS IN CHINA, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT CONCURRENT TRADE CONTACTS WOULD BE TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG BETWEEN PRC OFFICIALS AND A THAI BUSINESSMAN'S DELEGATION. THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 24 TO ANNOUNCE PARTICULARS OF THE THAI BADMINTON TEAM'S PRC VISIT AND HOPEFULLY WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE ACCURACY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY.  
UNGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS, TRADE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BANGKO13344  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS UNGER  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMENTS OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED THAI BADMINTON TEAM TO PRC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, SCUL, TH, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005